

Who is Doing What

VWS Alumni Corner

Tatiana Kuehn-Gunby

Class of 2013



VWS: Tell me about your work and education after graduating from the VWS.

TKG: I took a year off after graduating from VWS and travelled to southeast Asia. It was really an amazing experience. It was eye-opening to be submersed in another culture that's so different from anything I've ever experienced, especially seeing how women are treated so differently. When I came back from southeast Asia I decided to go into Women's Gender Studies because of what I experienced while traveling.

VWS: What kind of work/study are you involved in now?

TKG: I am in my third year of General Studies with a focus on Math and Sociology at Capilano University. I also work part-time to put myself through school. It is my dream to teach High School Math (Hopefully at a Waldorf School). I knew by Grade Nine that I wanted to teach, and by Grade Eleven I wanted to teach Math.

VWS: What is it about teaching in a Waldorf School that inspires you to want to teach?

TKG: I always loved Math but I think deciding to pursue it as a career had a lot to do with the education I received in the Waldorf High School. I found that the Waldorf School addresses so many different needs when it comes to the different ways in which students learn. For example, in Grade One, we used bean bags to help us understand and solve math problems. Not only was it fun for us at the time, it also helped the active learners participate in a physiological way.

VWS: What is it about Math do you love? Not too many people can say that!

TKG: There are a lot of things, but a huge part of my love for it is the aha moments! For me it is just so satisfying solving a math problem!

VWS: What advice would you give to this year's graduates?

TKG: Take time to find your passion. Travel and see the world.

VWS: How did Waldorf education affect your life, and your choice of career?

TKG: The Waldorf School has really inspired me to learn about the world, whether it's through University, through travelling, or both. Another thing that I feel that the Waldorf School instilled in me is a sense of self. In the High School, you are completely accepted for who you are. You don't have to dress or act in a certain way or act a certain way. You are just accepted for who you are and you are an integral part of the class and the school.

VWS: What are your fondest memories of your time at the VWS?

TKG: The Fall Trips! It was a fantastic way to get to know both students and teachers in a more meaningful way. I also loved the Greek Games. It was nice meeting other Waldorf students from around BC!

VWS: You have quite a 'lineage' of Waldorf teachers in your family. Could you tell me about them?

TKG: Yes, There are four generations of Steiner influence in my family! My great grandfather worked with Rudolf Steiner and helped build the first Goetheanum in Switzerland in 1912. My grandmother went to Waldorf School in Europe and then brought eurhythm to Montreal, my mom did her Waldorf Teacher Training, my aunt is a Eurhythm teacher in Brazil, and my other aunt taught Art in Waldorf Schools in Germany. The Waldorf influence is very strong in our household!

*Interview by Ronaye Ireland for Development
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Editor's Note: Watch for Tatiana subbing and teaching at our school! Tatiana went to VWS from Parent and Tot to Grade 12, with very few 'lates' and absences.